



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

SEP 07 2012

Ms. Michelle Banonis
Mid-Pacific Region
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-170
Sacramento, California 95825

Subject: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, San Joaquin Valley, California (CEQ #20120257)

Dear Ms. Banonis:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA strongly supports the Restoration Program. While a number of programs exist to improve San Joaquin River water quality, the Restoration Program is the most important effort underway to revive the River fisheries and ecosystem. EPA reviewed the Draft PEIS and provided comments to Reclamation on September 21, 2011. We rated the proposed action as a "Lack of Objections" (LO). We thank Reclamation for the substantive and thorough response to EPA's comments on the Draft PEIS.

EPA commends the effort and dedication of Reclamation and partner agencies. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this critical restoration project and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future on subsequent EIS's in the restoration area. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3843 or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for this project. Stephanie can be reached at (415) 972-3098 or skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Enrique Manzanilla".

Enrique Manzanilla, Director

Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Jason Phillips, Bureau of Reclamation
Dan Castleberry, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Russell Bellmer, NOAA Fisheries Service
Paula Landis, CA Department of Water Resources
Dale Mitchell, CA Department of Fish and Game
Sharon Weaver, San Joaquin River Parkway